

Nebraska Information Technology Commission

Project Proposal Form

**New or Additional State Funding Requests
for Information Technology Projects**

FY2003-05 Biennium

Project Title	NFOCUS Project
Agency/Entity	Health and Human Services System

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Section I: General Information

Project Title	NFOCUS Project
Agency (or entity)	Health and Human Services System

Contact Information for this Project:

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Section II: Executive Summary

The N-FOCUS application provides support and automation for the following HHSS programs:

Aid to Dependent Children/Medicaid (ADC)
 Assistance to the Aged; Blind (AABD)
 Adult Protective Services (APS)
 Child Care (CC)
 Children & Family Services/Medicaid (CFS)
 Emergency Assistance (EA)
 Employment First (EF)
 Food Stamp Program (FSP)
 Former Ward/Medicaid (FW)
 Independent Living/ Medicaid (IL)
 Juvenile Court (JC)
 Medical (MED)
 Refugee Resettlement Program (RR)
 Subsidized Adoption - grant only (SA)
 Subsidized Adoption/Medical (SA/Med)
 Subsidized Guardianship (SG)
 Subsidized Guardianship/Medical (SG/Med)
 Social Services for Aged & Disabled (SSAD)
 Social Services for Children & Families (SSCF)
 Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
 Waiver: Adults with Disabilities (AD)
 Waiver: Adults with Developmental
 Disabilities (ADD)
 Waiver: Children with Developmental
 Disabilities (CDD)
 Waiver: Developmental Disabilities Case
 Management (DDCM)
 Waiver: Early Intervention (EI)
 Waiver: Katie Beckett Plan
 Developmental Disabilities (DD)

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Included in this project are the updates to the programs that include federal/state mandate or policy changes, necessary technical changes, and changes considered essential to the users of the system. N-FOCUS issues \$28 Million dollars in Benefits and Payments monthly. N-FOCUS supports 2,426 users, both internal and external access. N-FOCUS has over 200 thousand Master Cases and over 600 thousand individuals (clients and others) for whom it tracks data.

Section III: Goals, Objectives, and Projected Outcomes (15 Points)

The project is to keep the NFOCUS compliant with federal/state mandates and operating effectively to meet the needs of Nebraskans. The current projects being implemented include:

- 1) LB-8 (passed in the special session of the legislature) changing provisions for medical assistance eligibility;
- 2) Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) for Food Stamps;
- 3) Developmental Disabilities (DD) system functionality incorporating into N-FOCUS with the demise of their ECHO system;
- 4) A78 project which completes the conversion of the Expert System software (AION) from version 7 to version 8;
- 5) Print Architecture (Phase One) which creates a new approach to creating and printing correspondence;
- 6) Nebraska Family Portrait (Child Welfare program) changes continue to be implemented;
- 7) Nebraska Information System (NIS) changing the way the State makes payments;
- 8) Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA): Since N-FOCUS currently pays some medical claims and stores medical information such as diagnoses for state wards and developmental disability clients, it falls under HIPAA regulations; and
- 9) Windows 2000: converting from the NT operating system to Windows 2000.

See attached power point for "interface" of N-FOCUS with other applications and external components:



Microsoft PowerPoint
Slide



Section IV: Project Justification / Business Case (25 Points)

The details for the projects and the justification is supplied in the linked document:



Microsoft Word
Document



Section V: Technical Impact (20 Points)

The technology impact is minimal since the base system is in place.

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Section VI: Preliminary Plan for Implementation (10 Points)

All the issues have been addressed. This is a very large system with an integrated support team.

Section VII: Risk Assessment (10 Points)

There are no major barriers for this project. Only funding is an issue.

Section VIII: Financial Analysis and Budget (20 Points)

Financial information is provided in the spreadsheet:



Excel Spreadsheet
(Double-click)



The funding for this project is under 26-65-xx where xx is a number of subprograms. Most of the support is based on a 50/50 split of general and federal funding. Mandated changed may have more favorable splits (i.e. HIPAA changes etc.).

<----- 10/07/2002 ----->

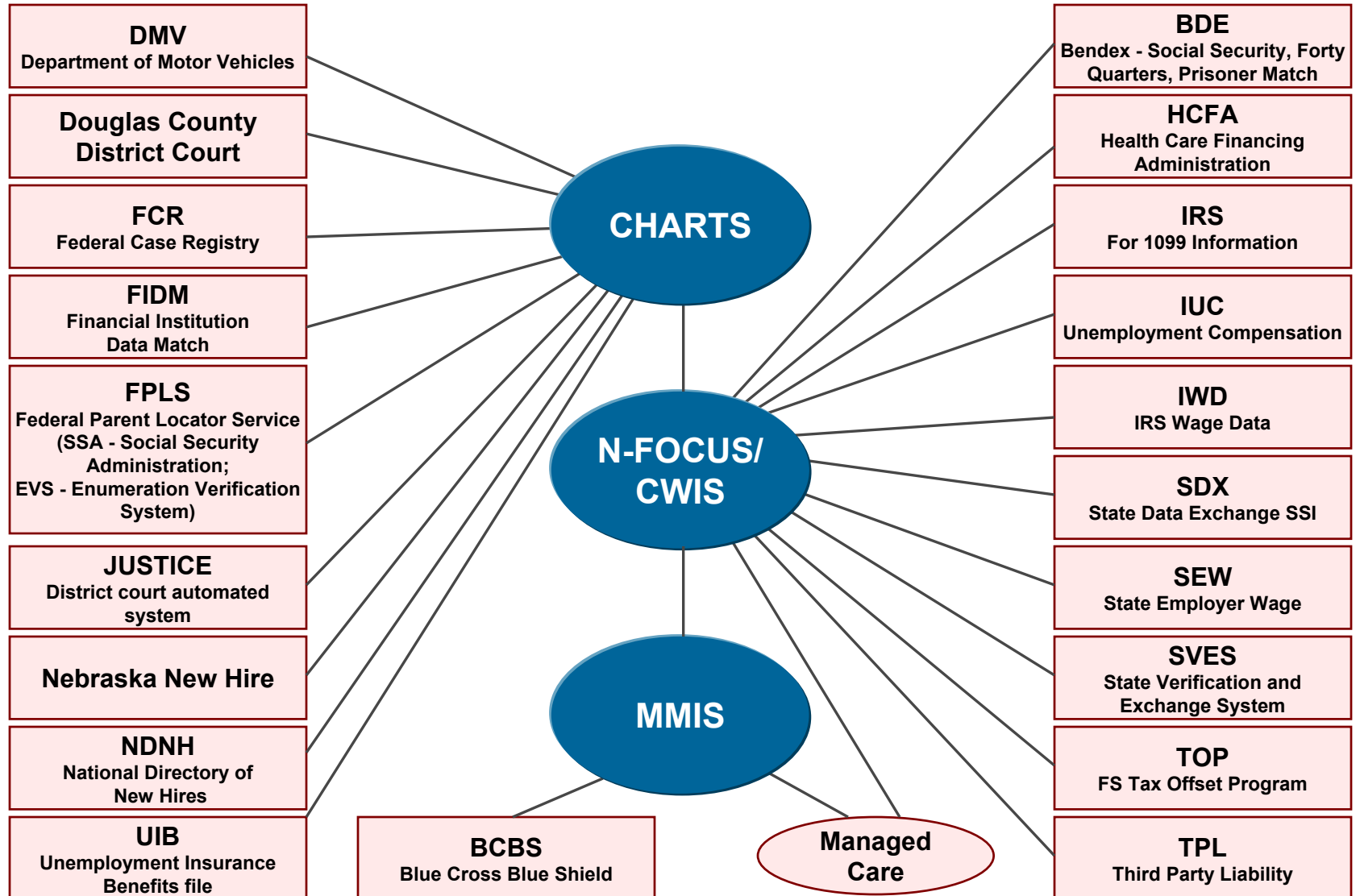
Db Cd	Debit Description	N-F Budget FY03	N-F Budget FY04	N-F Budget FY05
02	MVS - R36 PROCESSOR	\$ 1,639,152	\$ 1,945,266	\$ 2,144,655
03	MVS-DB2 INQUIRY CPU	371	409	450
11	MVS-LOCAL PRINTING - 1 PART	5,640	5,703	5,703
12	MVS-TAPE MOUNTS	113,792	151,028	177,749
13	MVS-JOB SETUP	260,582	279,813	285,409
14	MVS-DISK STORAGE	362,366	416,796	479,315
15	MVS-JOB OUTPUT	13,566	14,566	14,857
22	LAN SEGMENT CONNECTION	-	-	-
26	FIXED FUNCTION TERM CONN.	-	-	-
27	DIRECT SNA COMPUTER CONN.	-	-	-
32	MVS-DISPATCH ONLINE VIEW	484	444	444
34	MVS-CICS	1,866,287	2,215,665	2,302,127
35	MVS-CICS TEST	10,577	12,744	13,119
42	MVS-LOCAL PRINTING - 2 PART	-	-	-
45	PAGE PRINT	186,092	185,185	181,481
46	WARRANT PRINTING	31,054	30,645	30,032
53	CMS-R22 PROCESSOR PRIME	27	29	28
54	CMS-R22 PROC. NON PRIME	-	-	-
61	CMS-LOCAL PRINTING - 1 PART	-	-	-
62	CMS-TAPE MOUNTS	-	-	-
63	CMS-FILE RECOVERY	-	-	-
64	CMS-DISK STORAGE	-	-	-
65	CMS-JOB OUTPUT	-	-	-
72	DAS-ACTG NAS/NEIS-SQL	-	-	-
92	LOTUS NOTES APPS TRANS	-	-	-
93	LOTUS NOTES STORAGE	-	-	-
107	JOB SCHEDULER	-	-	-
109	MONTHLY SERVER SUPPORT	271	198	166
126	SYSTEMS PROG/SENIOR	-	-	-
170	DCS SUPPORT	-	-	-
174	DCS STAFF	-	-	-
201	SWI - MAINTENANCE	-	-	-
207	AMC - PRINT LINES	-	-	-
305	IMS TRAINING - CLASSES	1,409	1,409	1,409
307	IMS TRAINING - ROOM RENTAL	-	-	-
327	TAPE CARTRIDGE - 3480	9	9	9
397	SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE	410,237	410,237	410,237
413	SECURID CARD	-	-	-
756	WESTLAW MO. SW USAGE	-	-	-
Misc.		2	3	-
Total		4,901,918	5,670,149	6,047,190

900	Contractors			
901	FTE			
Total Staff Cost		5,763,378	5,846,286	5,823,146

170	DCS	210,684	213,084	213,084
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HHS Budget Cost Only		1,259,797	1,259,796	1,259,797
IMServices - IS & T Grand Total		12,135,777	12,989,315	13,343,217

N-FOCUS/CWIS and Interfaces



N-FOCUS Project Release Planning

Following are the combined project priorities presented by the following organizations who are stakeholders in the N-FOCUS application: Child Care, Client Payments and Claims Processing, Economic Assistance (Emergency Assistance, Employment First, Food Programs, Public Assistance, Refugee Assistance), Financial and Program Analysis, IS&T Application Services, IS&T Technical Services, Medical Services, N-FOCUS Production Support, N-FOCUS Steering Committee, N-FOCUS User Group, Protection and Safety, Special Services for Children and Adults, and the N-FOCUS Technical Team. This prioritization list is based on project-level priorities; it is not intended to include functional area SIR maintenance priorities. The maintenance release list is documented separately.

NOTE: N-FOCUS Reporting priorities are now tracked separately. Refer to J:\Appmaint\Priority\June 2001 Reports.doc for status and priorities.

AFCARS/SACWIS: Based on the Federal review held in June 2000 changes are necessary to the N-FOCUS application (in addition to the actual AFCARS reporting program) to be in compliance. Although some of these issues are recorded as individual projects, a separate project is necessary to ensure all compliance issues are addressed.

Sponsor: Protection and Safety

Target Implementation Timeframe: Phased project - waiting for analysis and estimate

Status:

09/06/00: Requested by Sherri Haber.

09/27/00: Waiting for business requirements to be defined by Sherri Haber.

01/11/01: A draft version of the federal SACWIS review was received this month indicating a number of items to be analyzed.

05/18/01: In the June 2001 release we will have come into compliance with capturing the 'Primary Special Needs' of children. There has also been significant maintenance performed on the AFCARS mapping functions. The following changes/enhancements are targeted for the October 2001 release:

- Automate IV-E adoption eligibility
- Support Indian Child Welfare Act notices
- Create a CHARTS interface
- Expand the Hispanic origin selections
- Resolve issues where placements can be created without removals
- Rewrite the child characteristic modules
- Continue maintenance of AFCARS mapping functions

Other changes may be identified during continuing discussions with the federal representatives on SACWIS and AFCARS.

09/01/01: Per Sherri Haber: Current status of changes/enhancements include:

- Automate IV-E adoption eligibility: targeted for February 2002
- Support Indian Child Welfare Act notices: targeted for October 2001 implementation
- Create a CHARTS interface: targeted for February 2002 or later depending on CHARTS availability
- Expand the Hispanic origin selections: further review determined this was not required
- Resolve issues where placements can be created without removals: targeted for February 2002
- Rewrite the child characteristic modules: targeted for October 2001 implementation
- Continue maintenance of AFCARS mapping functions: ongoing review

N-FOCUS Project Release Planning

We have some outstanding issues that we are working on with the Feds that may require additional long range planning. One of the issues is that the Foster Care Review Board is using a system that is outside of N-FOCUS. The Feds have told us that they need to use our system as their tool. We also have not completed the response to AFCARS and there may be some issues there that have not yet been identified.

12/20/01: Nebraska's final response on SACWIS was sent to ACF federal representatives this month. Known updates are in place pending the final federal response.

03/31/02: AFCARS meeting scheduled for 04/22/02 to begin finalization process for that report.

07/12/02: SACWIS response was received on May 9, 2002. There are still 11 outstanding issues. Several issues are procedural and so must be addressed by the policy division, over half revolve around the Foster Care Review Board having a separate automated system and the remaining issues are N-FOCUS related. Resolution to the outstanding N-FOCUS issues is in progress. AFCARS response was submitted to ACF federal representatives on 07-08-02.

Alerts: Because alerts can affect each area of the N-FOCUS application and consequently require the widest range of business knowledge, a change in how alerts are worked in N-FOCUS was instituted in March of 2001. A coordinator has been assigned to comprehensively review all existing problems in design and functionality and to work with individual business analysts assigned to business areas who will become more involved and responsible for the alerts in their areas than in the past. All existing documentation including SIRs, error logs, TSRs and User Group input are being reviewed for action to improve the quality and timeliness of information to field staff through alerts. In addition, alerts are being reviewed for multiple postings and to determine if the initial design of the alert is adequate for the purpose and use of the alert.

Significant releases so far include the correction and improvement of the alert that tells workers that a client has received provider payments through N-FOCUS and the correction of the Vital Statistic alerts verifying birth certificate and SSN information on newborns.

Significant work underway includes the completion of analysis and design on the consolidation of different alerts which informed workers that a client has reached a certain age; this should be ready to test soon. A set of alerts which is now being tested has to do with notification of workers, including RD workers, when persons in CFS cases or associated with organizations are involved in child abuse or neglect Intake instances. These alerts will now be sent when the Intake is recorded rather than wait until a finding has been made. In addition, new alerts will be sent for people who may be involved who may work for an organization. These situations were not being picked up previously.

Note: This is broken down into two phases on the related Gantt Chart; Age-Related Batch Sweep Alerts and Alerts Redesign.

Sponsor: Economic Assistance, Food Programs, IS&T Application Services, Protection and Safety, User Group

Target Implementation Timeframe: 3rd Quarter 2001

Status:

03/31/01: The alerts functionality was identified as a project to pull together the maintenance effort of various SIRs into an identifiable.

05/30/01: Discussion with User Group of this project. Received input on several known problem areas. Consist with known issues of online vs batch creation of alerts.

09/01/01: Batch sweep age alert redesign is in progress. CHARTS alerts will be looked at next. Interface alerts were to be looked at soon but now to be incorporated into the A78 project.

N-FOCUS Project Release Planning

12/20/02: Much discussion has revolved around the child support alerts with the implementation of CHARTS the end of this month; should they be changed, is an interface window a better solution, etc. Staff have been diverted to this issue for now.

03/31/02: Part of the batch sweep age alerts will be implemented with the June 10, 2002 release. CHARTS alerts are still being discussed by policy. Eligibility workers have access to CHARTS interface windows as of the implementation of CHARTS II. Those are being redesigned to better fit the needs of this staff. Testing is in progress on using the Common Image to support access to both N-FOCUS and CHARTS on the same machine. CHARTS has allowed for inquiry only access for N-FOCUS staff and one final test on production machines will be processed before final implementation decision.

07/12/02: Phase one of the batch sweep age alerts was implemented with the June release with Phase two is in progress.

AION 7 to AION 8 upgrade for financials (A78): The second phase of Expert System upgrade will consist of areas not completed in the first phase including, but not limited to:

- Convert financial data collection processes from AION 7 version to AION 8 version of software
- Convert Budgeting and Budget Authorization modules from AION 7 version to AION 8 version of software
- Convert Verifications process from AION 7 version to AION 8 version of software.

Sponsor: Economic Assistance/Food Programs, Economic Assistance/Public Assistance, IS&T Application Services, Protection and Safety, N-FOCUS Technical Staff, N-FOCUS User Group

Target Implementation Timeframe: Analysis scheduled to begin 1st quarter 2001. An implementation date will be targeted after an assessment of requirements has been completed.

Status:

10/18/99: Not started.

08/15/00: Limited activity on this project to date. There have been ballpark estimates prepared in an effort to initially size the project and the N-FOCUS User Group has begun looking at the current system to identify ideas for improvements with the new design.

09/05/00: Streamlining of the financial modules is one of the top four priorities for the N-FOCUS User Group.

09/27/00: Waiting for business team to be assigned.

01/11/01: Waiting for team to be initiated by business sponsors.

05/30/01: Presented results of the initial analysis to the User Group. Received positive input on the approach and asked the group to solicit opinions from other users to discuss at the next meeting.

06/04/01: Sponsors approved proceeding with this project. Recommendation to do presentations to policy staff for input on the approach and to share User Group comments.

06/2001: Presentations were presented to the Economic Assistance, Food Programs, QC and N-FOCUS staff for input. Positive response. Analysis continues on the business functions.

09/01/01: The business/technical team is proceeding with budget analysis based on the financial data collection options selected by the user group and business sponsors. When this analysis is completed a construction plan and implementation timeframe will be developed.

09/25/01: A business team lead and a child welfare business resource have been assigned to this project.

12/20/01: A presentation was made to the N-FOCUS User Group on 12/05/01. Data collection windows are basically designed and were reviewed. Questions were asked of the group as to preference on approaches to budgeting issues.

03/31/02: Analysis is complete for the following functions: technical review, data collection; calculating and budgeting except for one program area; and form development. Analysis in

N-FOCUS Project Release Planning

progress for: budget authorization; code table review; and budgeting for the remaining program area.

07/12/02: Financial data collection design is in place and is being phased into the test environment. Project plans show the rest of the functionality, i.e., budgeting, coming into the test environment starting early fall.

Case Registration for JC Cases: The program case of Juvenile Court has only one funding source of IV-E. Currently the JC Program Case is registered in active status and users are creating a service authorization with a funding source other than IV-E. This creates a system error. No services should be allowed to be authorized unless the funding is IV-E. The funding of IV-E is determined in Expert System processing, but presently services are being authorized when the funding has not yet been determined or the participant did not meet the IV-E eligibility.

Sponsor: Protection and Safety

Target Implementation Timeframe: Undetermined. Analysis to be completed 2nd Quarter 2001.

Status:

09/07/00: Requested by Ruth Grosse. The technical team recommends either 1) including this work as part of ESP II or 2) implementing post-ESP II. Note that if option 1 is selected, it significantly increases the ESP II scope. Other design options may be explored.

02/13/01: This project will be assessed; design options and timeframes will be considered after the analysis is completed.

09/28/01: Delayed due to the implementation of the DD Project.

CHARTS/N-FOCUS Interface: Investigate additional CHARTS/N-FOCUS Interface requirements in order for certification to be approved. This may include automated referral of cases from IV-A to IV-D as well as sharing of cooperation/sanction information.

Sponsor: IS&T Application Services Management

Target Implementation Timeframe: 2nd Quarter of 2002

Status:

09/27/00: Requested by Margo Gamet, CHARTS and SACWIS federal exceptions for certification.

02/13/01: We will proceed with initial analysis of options. CHARTS resources (both business and technical) must be allocated in order to continue with design and construction.

05/18/01: An analysis team (Sandy Rasmus, Dian Carroll, and Deborah Watson) has started to review options.

09/01/01: Analysis has not been completed due to other priorities and lack of availability of CHARTS resources.

12/20/02: Margo Gamet has committed to the availability of CHARTS staff to this project. Tentatively schedule for May 2003 release.

03/31/02: Meeting held on 03/18/02 with CHARTS and N-FOCUS staff to begin the design process.

07/12/02: The design for this function is complete. N-FOCUS will implement with the November 2002 release.

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Checkpoint/restart: This is an ongoing technical project that will implement checkpoint/restart capability into some batch jobs. This will allow better utilization of mainframe processing and eventually enable more extended on-line availability.

Sponsor: N-FOCUS Technical Team

Target Implementation Timeframe: Implementation will proceed in phases.

Status:

05/15/98: Awaiting technical staffing.

08/10/98: Preparing to pilot as an offshore project.

10/26/98: The offshore project was not approved, however the project may proceed as an off-site project. It will continue during 1999. Technical analysts are currently researching use of the technical tool.

04/13/99: Coding and testing in progress.

10/18/99: Continuing to resolve problems with the tool. Coding and testing in progress.

07/31/00: The group of part-time resources addressing this project as a background priority task helped another team of IMServices developers implement the first IMServices system in production using the checkpoint/restart tool. This was a collaborative effort, which benefited us because the IMServices team identified and resolved several implementation issues and paved the way for other implementations. We currently are working on 30 N-FOCUS batch programs with the heaviest DB2 utilization and have 5 ready for production implementation. We have one more implementation issue to resolve with some of our batch common modules. Once that's complete, we'll implement the 5 programs that are ready and continue work on the other 25. Targeting the end of Sept 2000 for production implementation of the top 30.

01/11/01: Analysts working on this project were diverted to the October 2000 release. Coding, testing, training documentation, and implementation planning have now been resumed. An implementation project team has been formed. Targeting initial implementation during the 2nd quarter of 2001.

05/18/01: After technical review, it was decided to discard use of the anticipate technicl tool (ARCtrl) and instead use the in-house solution being codd by the CHARTS application team. We are participating in the desing and review of this in-house souton and will proceed with testing and implementation when it has been coded by the CHARTS team.

09/01/01: Assessment of the in-house solution is continuing. Modules are being selected for pilot N-FOCUS testing and implementation.

03/31/02: Ongoing maintenance effort. Once the first job is implemented, this will take at least a year to fully implement into production.

07/12/02: Progress continues in this area.

Child Care Licensing: The Credentialing Division requests that we periodically extract Child Care license information from N-FOCUS and import it into the License Information System (LIS).

Sponsor: Child Care

Target Implementation Timeframe: 1st Quarter 2002

Status:

09/05/00: Requested by Diane Kvasnicka and Joyce Novak

09/08/00: Initial meeting held with Credentialing Division staff, Candy Avery (responsible for LIS) and Margo Gamet. Feasibility of this request is being assessed.

09/27/00: Meeting held 09/25 with business sponsors. Project direction not yet firm. Waiting for business direction to proceed further. High level technical estimate will be prepared. Project on hold pending business decisions.

N-FOCUS Project Release Planning

01/11/01: Project remains on hold pending business decisions. No implementation timeframe established.

02/13/01: N-FOCUS analysis team will meet with Child Care and Credentialing Division staff to analyze potential requirements.

05-25-2001: Meeting held with Credentialing Division staff and N-FOCUS staff. The new version of LIS has been funded and is expected to be delivered in 09/2001. They would prefer a "turn the switch" approach. Discussion about whether to export all existing information from N-FOCUS at one time. Options on conversion include: 1) import from N-FOCUS one time capturing basic data and then letting the LIS vendor match the providers. 2) Build an Access spreadsheet which has the name/address data for active providers using the LIS import function to build their data. 3) Manual conversion where staff hand load all existing providers currently in N-FOCUS into LIS.

06-20-2001: Lotus Note received from Pat Urzedowski officially requesting that the CC Licensing information be removed from N-FOCUS as ALL licensing will be maintained in LIS. Further discussion will have to be conducted on the conversion issue.

06-28-2001: Members of the N-FOCUS Steering Committee expressed some hesitation about removing this functionality from N-FOCUS. Dian Carroll has passed these concerns along to Dan Cillessen and Pat Urzedowski.

09/01/01: Business management has determined that no automated conversion of N-FOCUS data will be developed. An N-FOCUS enhancement will be developed to ensure that Facility Type is gathered for Child Care reporting purposes. No other N-FOCUS changes are planned at this time, but business review will be required.

10/09/01: Allan Albers stated that the Child Care licensing functionality should not be removed from N-FOCUS in the February 2002 release, but should instead tentatively be planned for the June 2002 release. We will assess whether we can proceed with the Facility Type enhancement, but will delay the changes related to removing the CC licensing functions.

01/17/02: Allan Albers stated that the Child Care licensing functionality should not be removed from N-FOCUS in the June 2002 release, but should instead tentatively be planned for the October 2002 release. We did proceed with the Facility Type enhancement for the 02-11-02 release, but will delay the changes related to removing the CC licensing functions.

07/12/02: Implementation of the LIS software was again delayed. It is now tentatively scheduled for September 2002. N-FOCUS staff have completed the analysis and documented our issues on how to remove child care licensing from N-FOCUS. Because this preliminary work is complete, we will be able to respond fairly quickly when we are notified that LIS has a solid implementation date.

CITRIX: Conversion of remote access users from the RSM software package to Citrix. RSM cannot hold any more users and there is an extensive waiting list. Citrix can handle more users and solves some problems such as the inability to print locally.

Sponsor: IS&T, N-FOCUS

Target Implementation Timeframe: 4th Quarter 2001

Status:

07/30/01: N-FOCUS team agreed to take on this technical initiative. This has ramifications to our development team. The technical staff will have to maintain the application for both platforms (Citrix and NT) and the business staff will have to double test functionality. It is believed to be a valid option for remote users but will have an impact on N-FOCUS release.

10/09/02: Progress is being made on the technical side. As soon as several identified issues have been resolved with IS&T staff, the business testing will begin.

01/17/02: Business testing was completed in December. Errors in the application were discovered with as few as six testers simultaneously using the software. Issues being handled by IS&T staff.

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03/31/02: Citrix has been signed off for N-FOCUS mainframe use only. There continue to be issues with Citrix when using the Expert System. This project will be marked complete as no Expert System work can be completed until after the A78 project is complete. We will add this back on the prioritization list as a "Phase Two" project at that time.

Convert CICS Assembler Code to COBOL: IMServices has a budget and a small staff available to convert CICS Assembler language systems to COBOL. It is difficult to find technical resources with Assembler language skills, creating a potential maintenance constraint. The budget is available for FY2001. HHS (CSS) systems containing assembler language code: Home Energy Assistance (HEA), legacy Food Stamps (FSP), Child Welfare Tracking (CWT), Integrated Security System (ISS), N-FOCUS (one module), Public Assistance Eligibility (PAE), Social Services Licensing (SSL) and Service Vendor Payments (SVP).

Sponsor: IMServices

Target Implementation Timeframe: 2nd Quarter 2001

Status:

08/15/00: IMServices is preparing for a meeting with HHS on this topic.

01/11/01: Work is proceeding. John Nelsen is the N-FOCUS liaison coordinating the technical work and the business testing required. HEA is nearly ready for client testing. The team anticipates that FSP will be ready to test in April.

02/13/01: The two systems that are currently being worked on and assessed include HEA and FSP. We will continue to assess the cost/benefit of converting inactive (inquiry-only) applications. HHS management will be involved in these decisions.

05/18/01: Client testing of HEA is underway. FP coding is in progress with an estimated technical completion date (i.e., ready for business testing) the beginning of August 2001. Business testing will not be initiated on the FSP issuance application due to the late availability of the converted application and it's conflict with the EBT project and the upcoming discontinuation of the issuance application. If business priorities change, then we will commence business testing of FSP. The ISS (security) system has not been started. CWT and SSL are inquiry-only legacy systems. A determination has not yet been made on these applications.

09/01/01: Client testing of HEA continues. The technical team is currently continuing to test the FSP application, however we have no plans to implement these changes unless business and technical priorities change (EBT will obsolete the FSP application). Conversion of the ISS, CWT, and SSL applications is being researched.

03/31/02: Business priority of this has diminished. Research now revolves around whether or not to implement.

DD Project – Phase One: The Developmental Disability (DD) program currently uses a software system called ECHO. This system is not Y2K compliant and will not be available for users after 12/31/2002 (a temporary patch was applied for 2000 and 2001; this patch is no longer available). One of three options to address this problem is to incorporate this functionality into N-FOCUS (other options included upgrading ECHO to the new software version or build a new DD system). The policy cabinet has determined that ECHO functionality should be incorporated into N-FOCUS.

N-FOCUS Project Release Planning

New functionality/data: Two new "DD" program types; Diagnosis and other DD client specific data; Service Need - must capture Referral Source, Reason, Request Date, Needed Date and Preferred Provider per service for their "waiting list".

Changes to functionality/data: Administrative Role codes; Guardianship/Professional Relationship codes; Living Arrangement codes; Case Registration, Case Maintenance, Program Case Assignments, Alerts.

Sponsor: IS&T Application Services, Policy Cabinet

Target Implementation Timeframe: The decision was made to implement this in phases. The first phase in June 2002, second phase in November 2002, third phase in March 2003. The core functionality is mandatory by 4th quarter 2002

Development/Maintenance: Development (State and/or Federal Mandate)

Status:

05/08/01: First meeting with DD, N-FOCUS and IS&T staff to discuss ECHO functions and options which are available to keep them operational.

05/22/01: N-FOCUS staff went to West Campus to see a demonstration of the ECHO system including the tracking system for the family's ability to pay.

06/14/01: A meeting was held to discuss the high level assessment N-FOCUS staff did of the feasibility of incorporating ECHO into N-FOCUS. The conclusion was that this could be done by the fall major release of 2002. It would push back other functionality which has been waiting to be worked (e.g., mass rate changes for providers).

06/28/01: Informed by Margo Gamet that Ron Ross had decided that ECHO should go into N-FOCUS.

09/01/01: Initial business analysis is in progress.

12/20/02: Business analysis is continuing. Several key functions will be implemented with the 06-10-02 release: case registration, service request date, waiting period, etc. The rest of the functionality is scheduled for implementation in October of 2002.

03/31/02: New functionality was recently discovered regarding the rate for DD providers. HHS pays at 90% but claims at 100% for Medicaid funding due to a 10% local share. This seriously complicates the claim process for DD. A meeting is scheduled on 04/12/02 with DD policy, finance, Medicaid and N-FOCUS staff to resolve.

07/12/02: Phase One was implemented with the June 2002 major release and is complete.

DD Project – Phase Two: The Developmental Disability (DD) program currently uses a software system called ECHO. This system is not Y2K compliant and will not be available for user after 12/31/2002 (a temporary patch was applied for 2000 and 2001; this patch is no longer available). One of three options to address this problem is to incorporate this functionality into N-FOCUS (other options included upgrading ECHO to the new software version or build a new DD system). The policy cabinet has determined that ECHO functionality should be incorporated into N-FOCUS.

New functionality/data: Fund Code may have to be tracked per service rather than per program/person; Eligibility Factors such as mental retardation, mental illness; new Service Types; new Security levels; certification indicator on physical Address for Organizations; Claims - need to be able to track hospital days, leave days; need to track day care setting in addition to Living Arrangement; Reports - a whole new set of reports have to be created to support this business; and HIPAA requirements would be more likely to be required of N-FOCUS with this additional functionality.

N-FOCUS Project Release Planning

Changes to functionality/data: Claims, Payments, Fund Codes, Reporting

Sponsor: IS&T Application Services, Policy Cabinet

Target Implementation Timeframe: The decision was made to implement this in phases. The first phase in June 2002, second phase in November 2002, third phase in March 2003. The core functionality is mandatory by 4th quarter 2002

Development/Maintenance: Development (State and/or Federal Mandate)

Status:

05/08/01: First meeting with DD, N-FOCUS and IS&T staff to discuss ECHO functions and options which are available to keep them operational.

05/22/01: N-FOCUS staff went to West Campus to see a demonstration of the ECHO system including the tracking system for the family's ability to pay.

06/14/01: A meeting was held to discuss the high level assessment N-FOCUS staff did of the feasibility of incorporating ECHO into N-FOCUS. The conclusion was that this could be done by the fall major release of 2002. It would push back other functionality which has been waiting to be worked (e.g., mass rate changes for providers).

06/28/01: Informed by Margo Gamet that Ron Ross had decided that ECHO should go into N-FOCUS.

09/01/01: Initial business analysis is in progress.

12/20/02: Business analysis is continuing. Several key functions will be implemented with the 06-10-02 release: case registration, service request date, waiting period, etc. The rest of the functionality is scheduled for implementation in October of 2002.

03/31/02: New functionality was recently discovered regarding the rate for DD providers. HHS pays at 90% but claims at 100% for Medicaid funding due to a 10% local share. This seriously complicates the claim process for DD. A meeting is scheduled on 04/12/02 with DD policy, finance, Medicaid and N-FOCUS staff to resolve.

07/12/02: Phase One was implemented with the June 2002 major release. Work in progress for Phase Two will core functionality (e.g., making provider payments) is in system test environment and stable. Analysis is complete for Phase Two objects. The simultaneous implementation of the NIS project is delaying work on Phase Two. Core functionality (creating claims and paying providers) is in system test and stable and will be available. Prioritization of other functionality may mean some of the additional functions may have to be rescheduled into Phase Three. One known issue is the automated claim to Medicaid funds. That will be implemented as a report in Phase Two and remain a manual process until Phase Three.

DD Project – Phase Three: The Developmental Disability (DD) program currently uses a software system called ECHO. This system is not Y2K compliant and will not be available for user after 12/31/2002 (a temporary patch was applied for 2000 and 2001; this patch is no longer available). One of three options to address this problem is to incorporate this functionality into N-FOCUS (other options included upgrading ECHO to the new software version or build a new DD system). The policy cabinet has determined that ECHO functionality should be incorporated into N-FOCUS.

High level overview of the functionality impacted by adding DD to N-FOCUS:

New functionality/data: Ability to Pay - tracking and billing system for a family's share of the cost of care provided through this program; new Security levels; new summary window for all Service Authorizations per person; Claims - a new procedure for creating and interfacing Medicaid claims to the MMIS system.

N-FOCUS Project Release Planning

Changes to functionality/data: Claims, Payments, Fund Codes, Reporting

Sponsor: IS&T Application Services, Policy Cabinet

Target Implementation Timeframe: The decision was made to implement this in phases. The first phase in June 2002, second phase in November 2002, third phase in March 2003. The core functionality is mandatory by 4th quarter 2002

Development/Maintenance: Development (State and/or Federal Mandate)

Status:

05/08/01: First meeting with DD, N-FOCUS and IS&T staff to discuss ECHO functions and options which are available to keep them operational.

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07/12/02: Phase One was implemented with the June 2002 major release. Work in progress for Phase Two with core functionality (e.g., making provider payments) is in system test environment and stable. Preliminary analysis has begun for Ability to Pay function. (Reports will be available to DD staff to support this effort manually until Phase Three is complete.)

Electronic Benefit Transfer: There is a federal mandate to issue food stamps via EBT by October 2002. Research and analysis required.

Sponsor: Economic Assistance/Food Programs, IS&T Application Services

Target Implementation Timeframe: September 2001 pilot implementation

Status:

01/29/99: We have been asked to allocate a technical resource for research and analysis. In the January 99 prioritization meeting George Kahlandt stated that he has asked that the EBT project scope include the issuance of Medicaid Cards; see Other priorities for more information on a previous Medicaid Card request.

04/13/99: A technical resource has been assigned; gathering information from other states.

05/06/99: Electronic Funds Transfer for clients is included in the analysis of this project, but will be tracked as a separate project since it will likely implement prior to EBT.

10/18/99: Analysis continuing. Continuing preparation for issuance of RFP.

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07/31/00: Analysis continuing. The RFP is scheduled to be released August 2000. The current EBT schedule has the design, development and testing phase of the project starting Dec. 1, 2000 and running through the end of Aug. 2001, with the pilot beginning in early September 2001. We currently have a ballpark estimate of approximately 3000 hours of changes to N-FOCUS to enable EBT. This estimate will be revised as detailed requirements are defined and design progresses.

01/11/01: Anticipating vendor award in late January 2001. N-FOCUS technical and functional team will be formed at that time to initiate detailed analysis, design, construction, and implementation.

05/18/01: Began working with vendor (Citicorp) in April 2001. Analysis and design of business requirements in progress.

09/01/01: The majority of system changes are targeted for implementation in the October 2001 release. Follow-on business testing and pilot implementation will continue through 1st quarter 2002.

01/17/02: "Live buy" tests have been conducted with five client families and two grocery stores in Grand Island. Some issues were identified, almost exclusively with Citicorp logic. Pilot will begin on time in February of 2002.

03/31/02: Implemented with the February release. This functionality will be rolled out across the state with final areas implementing in September. N-FOCUS functionality has been very stable.

07/12/02: Rollout to field offices continues. Several issues with the contractor, City Corp, have been resolved as they develop. Rollout is to be completed by October 1, 2002 and the final N-FOCUS task to shut down the coupon issue functionality will be completed at that time.

FICA, FICA Refunds and Tax Form Processing: Because the original design of N-FOCUS did not include the capability to link a specific collection to the original overpayment, we are unable to accurately determine amounts paid to providers (after deductions for portions of overpayments refunded) in order to produce an accurate tax form. This entire area should be reanalyzed to determine whether all changes should be Batch or whether we should attempt to make changes to the model to facilitate the tracking of a collection back to the original claim item.

Sponsor: Client Payments and Claims Processing

Status:

10/18/99: Requested by Sue Reynoldson. (Sue would like to begin the analysis of this project on or before February 2001, with the hope that we could implement changes before the end of the tax year 2001.)

09/07/00: This work will be deferred until after 1Q2001 (although some of it may be included in the changes Doug is currently making).

02/13/01: Sue Reynoldson noted that there will be FICA changes for the 2001 tax year.

09/01/01: Analysis has begun for required changes for the 2001 tax year.

03/31/02: Changes implemented for 2001 tax year.

Health and Human Services Name Change: There remain references in the N-FOCUS application to DSS and Social Services. These references should be updated.

Sponsor: IS&T Application Services

Target Implementation Timeframe: After assessing the impact analysis, most changes will be implemented via routine maintenance targeting the June 2001 Release.

Status:

02/05/01: Researching impact analysis.

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05/18/01: Changes progressing via routine maintenance. Detailed impact analysis needs to be repeated and remaining changes scheduled.

09/01/01: Final changes scheduled to be implemented with the February 11, 2002 release.

HIPAA: The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) planning and analysis report dated 01/09/2001 indicates that although the majority of changes will impact the MMIS systems, N-FOCUS will also be impacted. Details remain to be analyzed.

Sponsor: Medicaid

Target Implementation Timeframe: 3rd Quarter 2002

Status:

02/05/01: Analysis report received January 2001.

05/18/01: Initial business analysis completed. Further information on the specific regulations will be needed to complete the impact to N-FOCUS functionality.

01/17/02: MMIS staff are at a point where they can share the requirements and approach needed for Nebraska. Meetings will begin to incorporate N-FOCUS functionality as necessary.

03/31/02: Initial meetings complete. N-FOCUS has identified medical services which may dictate HIPAA requirement. Waiting for further information from HIPAA project management.

07/12/02: N-FOCUS managers have been asked to co-chair a HIPAA Tag Team to bring N-FOCUS into the HIPAA environment.

Internet State Verification Exchange System: This Java Servlet hosted on the OS390 Mainframe enables the external user SVES request/display application to be run on the internet/intranet. Note that this application is being developed by the IMServices Web Application team utilizing N-FOCUS business analysts and technical architecture/DBA support.

Sponsor: IS&T Application Services

Target Implementation Timeframe: 3rd Quarter 2001

Status:

07/31/00: Currently technical testing, ready for client testing mid August 2000.

01/11/01: Business system testing in progress. Business analysts were not available for testing until after the October 2000 release was completed due to responsibilities assigned for the October release. Lack of technical availability has since slowed support of testing and implementing this project.

05/18/01: Testing completed. Waiting for technical implementation to production. Anticipated implementation in June 2001.

07/02/01: Questions arose regarding the security profile groupings for this access and were answered on 06/29/01. The new groupings are now in place.

09/01/01: Per David Sheesley: Remaining items to be completed:

1. Implement a process which will keep the Web application from being accessed during N-FOCUS database unavailability periods.
2. Implement a production RACF userid request which will be used to load all needed code/decode data.
3. Promote N-FOCUS common modules so that they may be accessed via the SVES application.
4. Coordinate business deployment including training and application notification.

01/17/02: Final testing is complete. Wording on two errors messages is being changed and then we will request two providers from the Lincoln area to act as the final test.

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03/31/02: Training materials in process of being updated for the conversion.
07/12/02: Delay in the training material due to the DD Project. Work continues.

Internet N-FOCUS Claim Inquiry: This Java Servlet is hosted on the OS390 Mainframe. Note that this application is being developed by the IMServices Web Application team utilizing N-FOCUS business analysts and technical architecture/DBA support.

Sponsor: IS&T Application Services Management

Target Implementation Timeframe: 3rd Quarter 2001

Status:

07/31/00: Still under development. Plan on having a prototype ready for client review the third week of August 2000.
01/11/01: Application made available for initial business system testing 01/05. Security not yet available.
05/18/01: Testing is on hold due to security constraints (waiting for Nebraska Guardian servers to be implemented in production, schedule for late May/early June). The technical analyst assigned has been unavailable for support due to training. Pilot implementation anticipated in July 2001.
09/01/01: Per Steve Hartman: The claims application is complete. The Nebraska Guardian servers are in production but have not yet been tested. Once testing is completed, the users will need to be added along with their security clearances. We will then quickly verify that security performs as desired. In addition, a stored procedure is being written that will limit the application's availability according to N-FOCUS availability schedules. This must also be tested in conjunction with the claims application.
12/20/01: Continue to wait for implementation of Guardian functionality.
03/31/02: Guardian functionality was up in late February however, N-FOCUS staff are now committed to DD project. The testing phase will be dependent on staff availability.
07/12/02: Staff availability very limited due to priority of other major projects. Continue to look for business testing time but within time constraints of other major projects such as DD.

Maintenance Requests: This is an ongoing effort to include fixes and enhancements to existing N-FOCUS functionality. Maintenance requests can range from changes in federal requirements such as the federal poverty level to correcting a spelling error on a window. Maintenance work is included in every major and interim release to N-FOCUS in addition to the work done on major projects.

Sponsor: Economic Assistance Division, Food Programs Division, Protection and Safety Division, Finance and Policy Assistance, N-FOCUS Business staff, N-FOCUS Technical staff

Target Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing.

Status: Ongoing

Nebraska Information System (NIS): The NIS system is a new approach for the State of Nebraska to write warrants and/or make EFT payments. It affects every state agency which uses the DAS accounting system to make payments. How we send data, track funding, receive confirmation of payments, etc. changes with the implementation of NIS. Due to the critical nature of these changes, they must take priority of all other projects.

Sponsor: Governor's Office, Policy Cabinet

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Target Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing.

Status:

07/12/02: N-FOCUS staff, both technical and business, have been increasingly involved in meeting on NIS. This has progressed to the actual design and construction of changes to N-FOCUS logic to support the new approach to NIS. The same staff assigned to the DD Project – Phase Two are the staff involved in the work on NIS as both involve claim and payment functions. The decision was made to complete DD related functionality for both the existing DAS procedure and the new NIS procedure to assure that DD providers could receive payment regardless of which approach was in place when the DD project – Phase Two is implemented in the fall. This has jeopardized some of the functionality scheduled for release with DD – Phase Two but the priority must be to assure payments could be made.

N-FOCUS Development Software Upgrades: The software (COOLGEN, AION, etc.) that we use to build the N-FOCUS application continuously changes. To keep our software somewhat up to date with the versions of software released by our vendors, we need to schedule time to rebuild our development workstation images. By not staying relatively current on our vendor tools, we run the risk that our current level will not be supported, or if supported, at a much lower priority or level of service. Staying current on software versions also allows us to take advantage of new capabilities of the toolsets. The new images will contain an upgraded version of the Operating System, a new version of the PC database tool (UDB), COOL:Gen, and probably AION 9. We will be looking at all of our toolsets during this process.

We will plan to have the images already tested before a major release and then deploy them to the development staff at the beginning of the next release. With the next release scheduled in June, we would not be ready until the following release.

Sponsor: N-FOCUS Technical Team

Target Implementation Timeframe: 3rd Quarter 2001

Status:

02/05/01: Technical research beginning.

05/18/01: Technical research continuing with plans to implement new development images summer of 2001.

09/01/01: Development image planned to be released fall 2001. Corresponding software versions will be released to production February 2002.

03/31/02: Cool:Gen, version 6, was implemented with the 02/11/02 release.

07/12/02: A78 continues in progress to upgrade AION from version 7 to 8. Windows 2000 is a priority of IS&T staff and is being looked at by N-FOCUS staff.

N-FOCUS Web Enablement: COOLGen has functionality that may allow us to generate COOLGen Web clients that access our Cool:Gen server modules (CICS) via an NT web server. This software is made up of two components. One piece of the software generates an html web page. The other component resides on a web server where it controls what to display back to the web client (browser) and also communicates back to CICS. With other smaller architectural changes, this could allow users at remote sites to access our CICS server applications and N-FOCUS DB2 data. The benefits of using this product potentially include opening up web-based application development to our COOL:Gen team, thus increasing N-FOCUS's capacity to meet HHS web-based application development needs. Using a tool that generates the components to web-enable the application requires less expertise or fewer experts in web technologies.

N-FOCUS Project Release Planning

Sponsor: N-FOCUS Technical Team

Target Implementation Timeframe: No implementation plan developed; research only at this time.

Status:

01/11/01: The Configuration Management team first looked at the component that generates an html web page. The beta release has some bugs and does not perform very well. They are now looking at the middle component that resides on the web server. Using the middle component, N-FOCUS could hand code or generate the web page and still tie into the back end CICS module. This currently does not include any processing done in AION.

05/18/01: Research and testing in progress.

03/31/02: Cool: Gen team has assigned a technical resource to begin more detailed research.

07/12/02: Business staff is in the process of identifying functionality to begin high level testing.

Print/Output Architecture: Prepare a requirements document to: 1) Assist in the transition phase when new staff come on the technical team. 2) Look for opportunities to simplify what we currently have and possibly provide increased functionality and maintainability to an already complex architecture. Although the current implementation satisfies many printing requirements, it has several limitations that have been identified by both the N-FOCUS User Group and the N-FOCUS Technical team. Some of these limitations are apparent to users, others are apparent to the technical team having to do with internal processing and data storage locations. Limitations include, but are not limited to: timeliness of printouts, reliability of printout delivery, complex internal processing of print requests, ties to proprietary software, format/printer incompatibility, difficulty reprinting archived documents and multiple data storage locations. A key feature requested by the N-FOCUS User Group each month is the print screen functionality currently available in System Test.

Sponsor: N-FOCUS Technical Team, N-FOCUS Production Support

Target Implementation Timeframe: Analysis to be completed 1st Quarter 2001. Implementation will proceed in phases.

Status:

11/01/99: Added to Year 2000 priorities by technical team.

07/31/00: Significant research, analysis and high-level design has been accomplished over the last few months on this project. There have been two directions established; one short-term and one long-term.

Short-term:

- (1) The technical team is evaluating ways to eliminate our current print architecture's need to utilize OS/2 servers in the field (running printing software called PSF/2). HHSS IS&T Technical Services would like to eliminate OS/2 from the technical environment completely.
- (2) The technical team is working with IS&T Technical Services to enable an adequate N-FOCUS printing capability when N-FOCUS is executed through Citrix Metaframe (see the project update for the N-FOCUS Technical Architecture project in the October 2000 release section).

Long-term, we have developed a strategy for redesigning the Printing/Output Architecture. The concept has been favorably reviewed with Gartner Group. The concept is designed such that it can be implemented in a phased manner concurrent with continued utilization of the current architecture (no need for a "big bang" conversion). A more detailed description of the proposed new architecture is available. Currently, the technical team is putting together a work plan for a small proof of concept project

01/11/01: Requested update from technical team.

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02/06/01: The technical team has been working with a product called INFOPRINT to replace the PSF/2 product that is currently running on the OS/2 server. We have also researched and developed preliminary plans to redesign the print architecture to use XML technology as a replacement to AFP.

Short term: INFOPRINT testing is being done now. If the testing is successful, we should be able to eliminate PSF/2 and OS/2 print servers. INFOPRINT converts AFP data to PCL data and uses IP addressing to send the PCL data to the printers, therefore eliminating the need for PSF/2.

Long term: The new print architecture will allow print duplication of archived documents and ideally allow the user to view or print from any industry standard PC or printer.

The technical team has developed prototypes to create NFOCUS correspondence using XML and XSL technology. XML technology will allow us to replace AFP technology with a non-proprietary product that is recognized as a W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) recommendation. We are evaluating several products that will do some of the work for us and eliminate part of the work load. Currently the technical team is experimenting with different configurations for passing print data from the Mainframe to the Web Server and the user workstations. The technical team would like to use the OS/390 WebSphere product to host processes that will transform the data to our desired output format (PDF, HTML) There is a software product (COCOON) available that we are looking at to run on this server to do the transform for us. The technical team is working with technical staff from IMS to determine the most efficient way to utilize the OS/390 WebSphere product. Other issues that the technical team are investigating is conversion of current data to XML, building new XML data from current DB2 tables, storage of XML data on either the web server or the mainframe, and phasing in of the XML process.

09/01/01: Infoprint rollout into production has begin. We continue the rollout as IP addresses are stabilized. We also continue working through the platform and server issues for the new print architecture. We are evaluating the possible use of Crystal Reports and/or Crystal Enterprise. Incorporating these Crystal tools with our new print architecture may answer our needs for data storage, archiving and retrieval. A successful proof of concept has been done on the Court Report and Case Plan printing where there is a documented problem in production with words breaking in the middle of a line and continuing on the next page.

07/12/02: Progress has been made to the point that Phase One may be implemented with the November 2002 release. Phase One will be the conversion of Correspondence to the new Print Architecture and will take several releases to complete the full conversion of Correspondence to the new approach. Phase Two will encompass online Reports.

Purge/Archive/Retrieval: A process is needed which will archive N-FOCUS data that is no longer routinely accessed. A retrieval process is also needed when the archived data must be reviewed or processed. This process keeps the database manageable and improves performance. This project will address components of N-FOCUS data as the technical requirements dictate a need.

Sponsor: IS&T Application Services, N-FOCUS Technical Team, N-FOCUS User Group

Target Implementation Timeframe: Proceeding in phases

Status:

12/29/98: Technical design for the archiving of Alerts is in progress. The next area to be reviewed will be Correspondence. Work will continue throughout 1999.

04/13/99: Technical design proposal being reviewed.

10/18/99: A purge process for Alerts was implemented August, 1999. Design is currently underway to purge certain types of Correspondence. The archive technical design has not yet been completed.

07/31/00: The archive technical design is complete and approved. It was designed in a way that will allow it to be extended to support multiple business functional areas (e.g., Correspondence,

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Alerts, Assignments, Income, etc.). The design also supports a phased implementation.

CODE_DECODE values are also being archived so that they may be used with data that is archived. The next step is to implement archival of Alerts, and then Correspondence.

09/05/00: This is one of the top four priorities for the N-FOCUS User Group.

01/11/01: Archiving of Alerts implemented Fall 2000. Archiving of Bendex data planned to be implemented January 2001. Construction and testing of the archiving of SDX data, preprint Claims, Assignments, and Correspondence is in progress.

05/18/01: Archiving/purge processes have been implemented for Alerts, Bendex data, SDX data, and preprint Claims. Testing is in progress for Assignments. Coding is in progress for Correspondence. The next business area to be reviewed is Reporting.

09/01/01: We are continuing to review requirements for Assignments, Correspondence, and Reporting.

12/20/01: : We are continuing to review requirements for Assignments, Correspondence, and Reporting, however, this is delayed due to the implementation of the DD functionality.

07/12/02: The phased approach to archive/purge continues. Archiving assignments for Program Cases, Organizations and Intakes are scheduled for this coming quarter.

Reporting: Reports are most often required for federal purposes but can also be in response to Governor, State Legislature, HHSS management or press requests for information.

Sponsor: Economic Assistance Division, Food Programs Division, Protection and Safety Division, Finance and Policy Assistance, N-FOCUS Business staff, N-FOCUS Technical staff

Target Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing effort

Status:

09/01/01: Progress continues to be made in the implementation of Crystal Reports and Crystal Enterprise software. Of the over 200 reports currently produced via N-FOCUS on a regular basis, 58 are not being produced using the Crystal software. The vendor has not supplied functionality for the scheduling and distribution of reports as promised. This has slowed down our efforts in the reporting area overall and in the web based aspect in particular.

01/22/02: Reporting Team has a status review meeting. Crystal software continues to be effective with doing reports and queries. The vendor has not supplied functionality for the scheduling and distribution of reports as promised. This has slowed down our efforts in the reporting area overall and in the web based aspect in particular. Options were discussed but it was decided that we cannot staff much research into nQuire at this time and will continue to fine tune our approach with Crystal software. The number of reports created in Crystal has doubled in a matter of months.

07/12/02: A valuable technical resource has left the team. Staff is being reorganized to make sure progress continues in this area.

Windows 2000 Operating System: IS&T has an overall plan to install PCs with the Windows 2000 operating system on machines for: new users, replacement machines, etc. N-FOCUS uses the NT operating system, not Windows 2000. This means that if a Windows 2000 machine is ever installed for a N-FOCUS user, we cannot guarantee functionality will be stable nor can we guarantee support will be supplied.

Sponsor: N-FOCUS Technical staff, IS&T Technical staff

Target Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing issue

Status:

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01/09/02: Mark Nelson brought up this issue in the IS&T Implementation Meeting. The above is their plan for any new installation of equipment. Of particular interest, are the new machines and/or servers for Aging staff who do want N-FOCUS.

01/22/02: N-FOCUS staff met to discuss this issue and the ramifications to our development, testing and release schedules. We would have to develop on NT, but test on NT, Windows 2000 and Citrix for every release. At this time, N-FOCUS staff cannot commit to support users on a Windows 2000 machine. However, a follow up meeting will be held between N-FOCUS and IS&T staff for more in depth discussion of the issues.

03/31/02: Initial planning session held with IS&T technical and N-FOCUS staff to start the planning process.

07/12/02: N-FOCUS technical staff continue to conduct research on using Windows 2000 vs NT operating system. Once several outstanding issues are resolved by IS&T staff, two machines in the system test environment will be converted to Windows 2000 from NT.